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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,401	11/28/2003	Koji Aoki	000409-072	7190

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EXAMINER

RUTLAND WALLIS, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722,401

Applicant(s)

AOKI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Rutland-Wallis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,13 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 5-10 and 13-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

In view of applicant's arguments and amendments made to the claims the previous 112 2nd rejections and drawing objections are hereby withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments and amendments directed to the 102(b) rejection as anticipated by Van den Boom are persuasive therefore the 102(b) rejection is hereby withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments beginning in the third paragraph of page 8 or the Remarks applicant alleges the disclosure of Okada does not make up for the deficiencies pointed out with respect to Van den Boom. The office contends is not the case as Okada teaches the newly amended features of claim 1. Therefore a new rejection, Van den Boom in view of Okada is found below.

Additionally Janssen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,617,961) is informatively cited see column 2 lines 3-25 as an alternate teaching of applicant newly amended limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-10 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van den Boom et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,075,294) in view of Okada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,552,649)

With respect to claims 1 and 5 Van den Boom teaches a vehicle door operation system for operating a first door and a second door provided to a vehicle, comprising: a sending means (conducting lines item 17 and 19 for example seen in Fig. 1) provided to either the first door or the second door for sending a request signal (data signal); a portable station (item 20) for sending an ID information in response to the request signal; a receiving means (item 15) provided to the vehicle for receiving the ID information sent from the portable station; a judging means (Van den Boom teaches comparing and determining the correct ID operation is performed within the controller see column 4 lines line 18-31) provided to the vehicle for judging whether or not the ID information sent from the portable station is correct; an object detecting means (item 30 for example) provided to the first door for detecting an object; an opening operation means (item 13) provided to the second door and operated for opening the second door; and a first control means (item 16) for switching the first door and the second door from a locked condition to an unlocked condition when the ID information is verified as correct information by the judging means and sending an opening operation signal (sent via conductors 17 for example) from the opening operation means. The system of Van den Boom is directed to a vehicle with a passenger side and a driver side doors as disclosed in drawings. Van den Boom does not teach the use of two doors inline with

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one another on one side of the vehicle and one additional door located on the opposite side of the vehicle, nor does Van den Boom teach the unlocking or switching of the doors on one side of the vehicle without the switching of the additional door to the unlocked position. Okada teaches typical four-door sedan type vehicle comprising two doors inline with one another on one side of the vehicle (see Fig. 1) and additional doors at the opposite side of the vehicle (see doors 1-4). Okada further teaches only those doors on the side which an authorized user approaches is switched from a locked to an unlocked position (see column 2 lines 60-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Van den Boom to operate on a four door vehicle similar to that seen in Okada and to only unlock the doors on the side of the vehicle which is needed by the user to prevent an unauthorized third party from gaining access to the vehicle.

With respect to claim 2 Van den Boom teaches the device of claim 1 Van den Boom does not teach the use of a second control means for the second door, while Van den boom teaches a latching mechanism to enable the doors to close and lock or unlock or release when the ID information is verified as correct information by the judging means, and the opening operation signal from the opening operation means is input. Okada teaches (item 76) a second controller to control the operation of a latching mechanism. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Van den Boom to include an additional control means to control the latching mechanism associated with the second door in order to save power by reducing transmission length of power signals.

With respect to claim 6 Van den Boom teaches the object detecting means is comprised of the electrical capacitance sensor for detecting a human approach.

With respect to claim 8 Van den Boom teaches the portable station carried by a user of the vehicle includes an antenna (item 24), a sending (item 21) and receiving circuit (item 22) and a key control means (items 23 and or 25). Van den Boom does not teach separate sending and receiving antennas. The use of separate antennas for transmitting and receiving is well known in the art see for example Okada et al. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Van den Boom to include the use of two separate antennas in order to transmit and receive simultaneously for example.

With respect to claim 9 Van den Boom teaches the first control means (item 16) provided to the vehicle is connected to the receiving means (item 15) and the sending means.

With respect to claim 10 Van den Boom as modified by Okada teaches the second control means provided to the second door is connected to the opening operation means in order to operate the door when the correct ID is received.

With respect to claim 14 Van den Boom as modified by Okada teaches a plurality of doors (Okada doors 1-4) are provided on the opposite side of the vehicle, and the first control means switches the first door and the second door from the locked condition to the unlocked condition without (see column 2 lines 60-65) switching the plural doors on the other side of the vehicle from the locked condition to the unlocked condition when the ID information is verified as correct information by the judging means, and

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either an object detecting signal from the object detecting means or an opening operation signal from the opening operation means is input thereinto.

Claims 13 and 7 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van den Boom et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,075,294) in view of Okada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,552,649) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Williams, Jr. et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,091,162) Van den Boom as modified by Okada teaches the system of claim 2 but does not teach the slide type rear door on the side of the vehicle. The use of slide type doors is well known in the art particularly on van type vehicles. Williams teaches a minivan equipped with a sliding door and controlled by a remote control means to actuate the sliding of the door when correct signal is sent. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the system of Van den Boom as modified by Okada to control the operation of a sliding door in order to use the increase the security of minivan type vehicles.

With respect to claim 7 Van den Boom teaches the object detecting means is comprised of the electrical capacitance sensor for detecting a human approach.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Steriner teaches a device similar to that of the claimed invention (U.S. Pat. No. 6,577,226), Leda et al. teaches a device of particular relevance to the claimed invention (U.S. Pat. No. 6,933,831)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Rutland-Wallis whose telephone number is 571-272-5921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MRW


LYNN FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER